

JOSEPH SMITH LUMBERYARD

26 WEST MAIN STREET

This c. 1870 2-story, 3-bay building is a rarity in Westminster's business district in that its wood frame and clapboarding have not yet been covered over. However, the building has suffered recent alterations in the form of an arched front across the ground floor of the original building extending to the east over what was probably the original lumberyard. Old photographs show that this area of Main Street was not, a century ago, devoid of wood frame buildings, but there are virtually none left today. It is pleasantly fitting that this survivor's original function was to supply lumber to the City.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Carroll 421

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY 0704244511

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Joseph Smith Lumberyard

AND/OR COMMON

Wheeler Floor Fashion

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

26 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Paul M. Wheeler

Telephone #: 848-3931

STREET & NUMBER

2201 Old Washington Road

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 436

Folio #: 29

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 26 West Main Street, the "Joseph Smith Lumber Company", faces the north side of that street (St. Route 32) about halfway between Railroad Avenue and John Street in Westminster. The building today is in two sections, an original two-story section to the west, and a one-story addition probably over the lumberyard area to the east. The original section is in the mainstream of the local vernacular tradition, i.e., it is 2 stories tall and 3 bays wide; however, only its second floor gives any evidence of the building's 100 years of age. On the south facade of the second floor, are three, double-hung sash windows, regularly spaced; the westernmost window has six-over-six panes while those to the east are paned 6/1. Windows are, uniformly, simply en-framed, their only decorations being wooden sills. Above, the roof meets the wall by means of a 3-part, denticulated, modillioned, entablature. Three pairs of these modillions are present on the south (principal) facade, irregularly spaced with the windows below. The surface of the second floor is sheathed in clapboard, which is painted a pale yellow; trim, window enframingent and entablature are all painted olive green, which makes fine contrast.

To the east, the second floor has a similar appearance, but the facade is made longer by having 4 windows below the continued cornice and flat roof.

Recently, presumably when the present owners took over, the ground floor of this original building was covered over by a pair of brick arches below a wooden-shingled pent-roof; this arrangement was continued to the east, creating a total of 5 arches, approximating an arcade (if one can imagine an arcade flush with the building). A large, multi-paned, display window fills the top 2/3 of each of the four side arches; a green and yellow panel fills the bottom third. In the center within a slightly larger arch, yellow, multi-paned, double doors lead to the new shop area, which is located on the ground floor of the old building as well as covering the (presumed) lumberyard. The "arcade" continues, to meet the eastern bordering building with the flush wall.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Number 26 West Main Street is a rarity in Westminster's business district in that its wood frame and clapboarding have not yet been covered over. The building was most likely originally used as a lumberyard - with the offices in the two-story section. Old photographs show that this area of Main Street was not, 100 years ago, devoid of wood frame buildings, but there are virtually none left today. It is pleasant that this survivor's original function was to supply lumber to the City, as the 1887 City Directory points out. When it was first built, before it had its ground floor lengthened, the building must have appeared to be a half-century later version of wood frame buildings found to the east, for example nos. 224 and 226 East Main Street. It kept the bracketed cornice and 3 bay appearance of these older structures, making necessary fashionable changes (such as lengthening the windows on the second story). However, it seems that the building was not executed with the finesse displayed at those older structures, note the disharmonious relationship between window and brackets. However, despite these flaws, and despite the suburbanization of the ground floor, the building is crucial to the downtown streetscape, if only for its wooden rarity. (The yellow and green paint scheme now used could certainly have been used a 100 years ago when the building was new, and it, like the wood it covers, is refreshing.)

The original plat of this portion of land, dated 1815, shows Jacob Mathias as the original owner of lots 15, 16, and 17; this piece contains our lot (lot 16) and was sold by Mathias' executor, John T. Mathias, to Hoppe and Cover on April 2, 1862 for \$1404 (Carroll County Deed Book 28, Page 56). Three days later the land was sold to George Orndorff (also spelled Orendorff) for \$2800 (28/474). It is unclear how George transferred title to John T. Orndorff, but he apparently did, for we find John Thomas Orndorff selling our lot to Henry W. Dell on December 15, 1874 for \$1239.78 (44/341). It was probably at this time that Smith built his lumberyard renting the land from Dell. Dell sold the lot to his son, Alfred G., on May 26, 1885 (Alfred was to pay his father \$200 a year rent for Henry's life; 63/2). On September 14, 1908, Dell sold the lot to Joseph W. Smith and John L. Reifsnider Jr. (109/424). Smith and Reifsnider had a lumber business called, coincidentally, "Smith and Reifsnider", probably an outgrowth of this old lumberyard of Joseph

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being the easterly half of lot 16 as shown on a plat of
 "Winter's Addition to Westminster" recorded among the Land Records
 of Frederick County in Book JS 2, Page 196.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

February, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

C/O City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
 by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
 Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
 and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
 ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

#8

Smith; as they prospered, they were able to buy freehold in the land that Smith had once rented. The lot stayed in that firm until its present owner took title on April 18, 1968, by Deed 436/29.

45 1/2



C-13

CARR 424

26 ~~W.~~ W. Main St.

Westminster

2/77 S. Jacade

C. Wehm